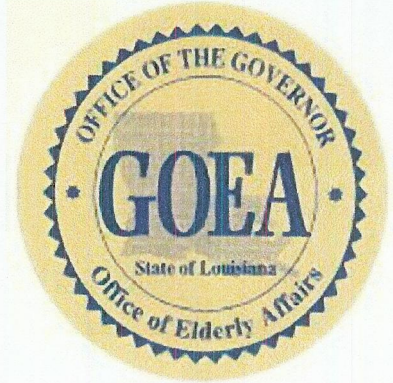


# Elder News

## Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs "Serving Seniors Successfully" Fall 2012



**Important Changes** to the way federal benefits (Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans pension, Railroad Retirement or other federal benefit checks) are being paid. The U.S. Department of Treasury will be making payments to beneficiaries by electronic payments only beginning March 1, 2013. If you or your clients have not switched from paper payments to electronic payments, it is not too early to switch. For more information regarding these changes or to become a partner, go to [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org).



### HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!



Were you prepared when Hurricane Isaac came to the coastline of Louisiana? In the aftermath of the storm, this is now the time to review the disaster plans for personal and business operations. Take time to reflect on the practices that worked really well and the ones that will need modifications. Stay prepared for any disaster. For those agencies that are still struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center has prepared a resource guide (Hurricane Isaac Resource Guide) to assist in the navigation of Insurance claims, FEMA, SBA and other entities that are involved in disaster recover. Even though the contact information is for New Orleans residents, the resources and procedures are across the board. The guide can be found at [www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org).

To apply to FEMA for individual disaster assistance, please call 1-800-621-3362 or apply online at [www.fema.gov/apply-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance).



## Around the Aging Network...



Do you have clients who have **Durable Medical Equipment or Supplies** (wheelchair, walker or diabetic supplies)? Were they damaged or lost during Hurricane Isaac? Did Medicare pay for them? If so, in some cases, Medicare will cover the cost to repair or replace the equipment or supplies. Generally, Medicare will also cover the cost of rentals for items (such as wheelchairs) during the time the equipment is being repaired. If you or your client are in a Medicare Advantage Plan or other Medicare health plan, contact the plan directly to find out how to replace or restore the durable medical equipment or supplies damaged or lost in Hurricane Isaac or call 1-800-MEDICARE. For those whose durable medical equipment isn't covered by Medicare, Please be on the look-out for the following devices for people who have contacted LATAN in need of these devices. Please consider posting them for donation on The AT Marketplace (<http://atmp.latan.org/atmarketplace/index.php>) so that people can access them directly or with LATAN's assistance. Alternatively, you can call LATAN at [1.800.270.6185](tel:18002706185), so LATAN can help pair a consumer in need with an available device.

### **LATAN has identified NEEDED Items in Good, Working Condition:**

- Bariatric (over 300 lbs capacity) Wheelchairs
- Bariatric Rollator Walkers (with seat & brakes)
- Regular Sized Roll-In Shower Chair
- Air (Turning) Mattress for Hospital Bed
- \*\*For all wheelchairs, PLEASE include the seat measurements:**  
Width (side to side) x Depth (front to back).

---

## OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS...

Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription  
Drug Coverage

**October 15-December 7, 2012**



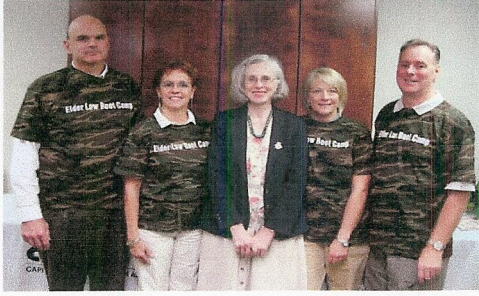
Each year, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug plans can be changed. What types of changes can occur?

- Change from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan
- Change from a Medicare Advantage Plan back to Original Medicare
- Switch from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan
- Switch from a Medicare Advantage Plan that doesn't offer drug coverage to a Medicare Advantage plan that offers drug coverage.
- Switch from a Medicare Advantage Plan that does off drug coverage to a Medicare Advantage plan that does not offer drug coverage.
- Join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
- Switch from one Medicare Drug Plan to another Medicare Drug Plan
- Drop your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage completely

For more information about the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Enrollment period, please contact the regional SenioRx/Aging and Disability Resource Center in the regional office nearest you or call **1-877-340-9100** or go to [www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11109.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11109.pdf) for the full printed **"Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage"**.



## Service Spot Light:



Bob Robison, Jane Thomas, Linda Beauvais, Laurie Redman and Greg Muldowney



Carrie Paillet, Jane Thomas, Carl Goode and Chip Coulter

The ***Elder Law Task Force*** attorneys participated in Baton Rouge's Women's Week with two Elder Law Mini Boot Camps. Part 1 & Part II were held on October 2-3, 2012 at Capital Area Agency on Aging. There were 32 Seniors in attendance. Workshops presented were:

Community Property and Usufruct by Carrie Paillet

Last Wills and Testaments by Carl Goode

Non-Probate Assets and Beneficiary Designation Planning by Carl Goode

Powers of Attorney over Property Assets and Health Care by Laurie Redman

Living Wills by Bob Robinson

Interdiction by Greg Muldowney

Ms. Jane Thomas moderated the event.

Previously, an Elder Law Boot camp was held in Saint Tammany (COAST) on April 24, 2012 which had 150 seniors in attendance. Presentations were given by Laurie Kadair, Betty Raglin, Nicole Loup, Ronda Gabb, Sheila Moragas, Steven Reed, Lisa Stansky, Carrie Paillet, Marilyn Pepper and Jane ArieuxThomas.

---

## Louisiana's ADRC's at work...

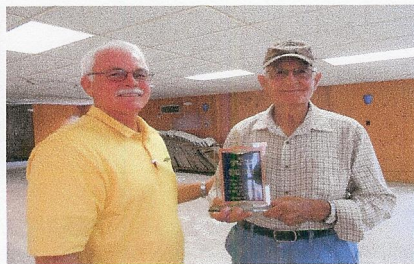
**Please see the below message submitted by one of our clients.**

*Dear Council on Aging,*

*What a Lifesaver you have been for me! Having a daughter who had been declared mentally disabled presented a multitude of challenges concerning social security, prescription drugs, insurance, Medicare, etc. My first reaction was, "What do I do as her mother? Who do I turn to" A close friend said, Ms. Mary Alice Rountree can help you at the Caddo Council on Aging. When I called the next morning, a very pleasant, friendly voice said, "We are here to help you. Come in this afternoon at 2:00". Needless to say, I immediately felt relieved to know such a facility was available. But the blessed person was Ms. Deean Shinall, who welcomed me that afternoon to answer all questions, to do the necessary paperwork and to make me feel secure about my daughter's welfare. So I will tell everyone that our community is so fortunate to have the Caddo Council on Aging to be an advocate for the Aging and Disabled.*

**Thank you Caddo Council on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Center!**





The **Cameron Council on Aging** held its annual Older Worker of the Year and to celebrate Mr. George LeBoeuf, as this year's Older Worker of the Year. Mr. LeBoeuf is 82 years old, has retired twice and is a U.S. Veteran. Please join us in congratulating Mr. LeBoeuf on his award which was presented to Mr. LeBoeuf by Mr. Wilson LeJeune, Cameron COA Board Secretary.

The **Ascension Council on Aging** has begun Fall Semester Classes. The classes offered are Beginning French, Acrylic Painting and Life Writing. If you would like information, please call the Ascension Council on Aging at 225-473-3789 or 225-621-5750.

**Capital Area Agency on Aging** will be hosting the Annual Health Fair at Lamar-Dixon Center in Gonzales on October 25, 2012. Capital AAA is expecting over 600 seniors to attend. For more information, please call 225-925-7674 or 1-800-280-0908.

The **East Baton Rouge Council on Aging** has a busy schedule ahead this fall. The EBRCOA has re-opened the kitchen facility at the Florida Blvd senior center and will be hosting a Fishing Rodeo, Candidates Forum, Thanksgiving Luncheon and Dance. For more information, please call 225-923-8000.

The **Lafourche Council on Aging** will be hosting its Annual Health Fair on October 16, 2012 from 8:00am till 1:00pm at the Lockport Volunteer Fire Station. Flu shots will be given. For more information, call 985-532-0457.

The **Lafayette Council on Aging** will be hosting "Hot Dogs for Seniors" on October 24, 2012 at Girard Park in Lafayette. For more information, please call 337-262-5990.

The **New Orleans Council on Aging** celebrated 15 years at the Mercy Endeavor Senior Center with a week long celebration. The Seniors of Mercy Endeavor Senior Center participated in a street car ride to conclude the week long celebration. Congratulations Mercy Endeavor!



The **Saint Mary Council on Aging** will participate in the Harvest Moon Festival and Red Ribbon Week Activities. For more information, call 337-828-4100 ext. 320.

**SHIIP** will be conducting Medicare Update Training Classes which are open to the general public. The times and locations are as follows:

**Lafourche Council on Aging**, October 4 from 9:00am-2:00pm

**West Monroe Senior Center**, October 9 from 1:00pm -4:00pm

**Saint Marks Episcopal Cathedral**, Shreveport, LA, October 10 from 9:00am-1:00pm

**Calcasieu Council on Aging**, October 11 from 9:00am-1:00pm

**CENLA/Central LA Small Business Incubator**, October 12 from 9:00am-1:00





## Louisiana Oral Health Care Coalition...

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals-Oral Health Program in collaboration with GOEA, are implementing an Elderly Basic Screening Survey project. This project will measure the oral health status of participants at selected Council on Aging congregate meal sites in Louisiana. There are 20 Councils on aging that will be represented in this study. Participation is on a voluntary basis.



The oral health assessment, which will include an oral screening, will be conducted by a licensed dentists and/or dental hygienists. The focus of this survey is to provide definitive data describing the oral health status of Louisiana's Elderly Population. The oral health screening is non-invasive and can be completed in 5-10 minutes per participant. Positive verbal consent is required from the participant. Each participant will be provided with a results letter as well as a referral for follow-up dental care if indicated. The name of participating facility and individual participants will be kept confidential at all times during and after the survey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Rishu Garg, Oral Health Epidemiologist/Evaluator** at 225-342-2645 or by e-mail at [Rishu.Garg@la.gov](mailto:Rishu.Garg@la.gov).

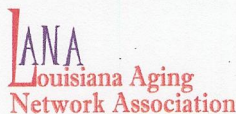
---

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren...

The New Orleans Council on Aging Family Caregiver Program held its annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Fine Arts Center in New Orleans. Guest Speaker for the event was Arthur Jones, III. Mr. Jones is a motivational speaker who is the co-founder of Each One-Reach One, a non-profit organization which is designed to revitalize the community. Workshops for the conference included information on Childhood Obesity, SenioRx, Diabetes Awareness, Youth Incarceration and Teen Substance Abuse.



There will be a **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference** at the Allen P. August Multi Purpose Center in Lake Charles on February 8, 2013. For more information, please contact 225-357-1565 or e-mail [lagrginfo@yahoo.com](mailto:lagrginfo@yahoo.com).



The Louisiana Aging Network annual conference was held at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge on September 18-20, 2012. There were approximately 100 members in attendance. Workshops included information on SAMS, SKYPE, Oral Healthcare, Senior Olympics, ZUMBA, GOEA Financial Reports, SALT Councils, ELDER Law and Transportation. Congratulations to Brenda Garner, East Feliciana Council on Aging for winning the Grand Prize (I-Pad) at the conclusion of the conference. The 2013 LANA conference will be held in early spring, which is tentatively set in New Orleans.

---

*State of Louisiana*  
Office of the Governor  
**Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs**  
Post Office Box 61  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821  
(225) 342-7100  
<http://www.GOEA.louisiana.gov>

This document was published to educate and update parish Councils on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and other organizations and individuals that serve Louisiana's elder population about current issues and news.